

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 9 are presented below. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A fixture for holding a substrate during the curing of a material applied to a portion thereof, comprising:  
a base having a top surface upon which ~~said the~~ substrate is mounted, ~~said the base having a top~~ surface having a radius of curvature including one of a convex radius of curvature and a concave radius of curvature for mounting ~~said the~~ substrate thereon;  
a plurality of clamping elements, each clamping element having a portion for engaging at least a portion of ~~the a~~ top surface of ~~said the~~ substrate, each clamping element mounted upon the ~~said~~ top surface of ~~said the~~ base along at least a substantial portion of an edge region of ~~said the~~ substrate for conforming ~~said the~~ substrate to the top surface of ~~said the~~ base;  
and  
a plurality of retaining elements for securing ~~said the plurality of~~ clamping elements to ~~said the~~ base and for causing ~~said the~~ plurality of clamping elements to having portions thereof to engage ~~said the~~ substrate during ~~said the~~ curing of ~~said the~~ material.

2. (Currently Amended) The fixture of claim 1, wherein the base includes a plurality of apertures therein, each aperture for receiving a portion of a retaining element of the plurality of retaining elements.

3. (Currently Amended) The fixture of claim 1, wherein each clamping element of the plurality includes at least one aperture therein for receiving a portion of a retaining element of the plurality therein.

4. (Currently Amended) The fixture of claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ each clamping element of the plurality comprises an elongated member.

5. (Currently Amended) A fixture for holding a substrate having a liquid material thereon, comprising:  
a base having a top surface for mounting ~~said the~~ substrate thereon, ~~said base having a the top~~ surface having a radius of curvature including one of a convex radius of curvature and a concave radius of curvature;  
a clamping element engaging ~~the a~~ top surface of ~~said the~~ substrate for substantially conforming ~~said the~~ substrate to the top surface of ~~said the~~ base as ~~said the~~ clamping element engages a portion of ~~said the top surface of the substrate~~, ~~said the~~ clamping element for mounting upon a portion of the ~~said-top surface of said the~~ base along at least a substantial portion of an edge region of ~~said the~~ substrate; and  
at least one retaining element securing ~~said the~~ clamping element to ~~said the~~ base and causing a portion of ~~said the~~ clamping element to engage a portion of ~~said the~~ substrate after ~~said the~~ liquid material has been applied thereto.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ fixture of claim 5, wherein the clamping element includes at least one aperture therein for exposing a portion of ~~said the~~ substrate.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ fixture of claim 5, wherein the clamping element includes a plurality of apertures therein for exposing portions of ~~said the~~ substrate.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ fixture of claim 5, wherein the substrate includes at least one aperture therein receiving a portion of the at least one retaining element therein and wherein the clamping element includes at least one aperture therein receiving a portion of the at least one retaining element extending therein.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ fixture of claim 5, wherein the at least one retaining element includes a plurality of retaining elements.